

SECRETARY OF DEFENSE WILLIAM J. PERRY
 REMARKS AT PRESS AVAILABILITY, WITH RUSSIAN DEFENSE MINISTER PAVEL GRACHEV
 BRUSSELS, BELGIUM
 MAY 24, 1994

ENGLISH TRANSLATION OF GRACHEV REMARKS

Q: inaudible

...I think that we have not yet presented to the American side. There are specific issues of the ... program, but I think that we are going to present a document to NATO ... to NATO, and after reconsideration, I think the arrangement will be appropriate.

Q: Mr. Grachev, let me just ask one more question, if I might. You said yesterday when you arrived at the airport that Russia would like to sign two documents. One, membership for the Partnership for Peace, and the other a document outlining the relationship between NATO and Russia. Is the second document a condition for becoming a member of the Partnership for Peace?

A: They are totally different, because I already said, not once, that we are not setting any preconditions for joining the Partnership for Peace program. I think this is, you know, some idea--some wrong, idea--of the press media, that you want us to say that we need some preconditions for joining the Partnership for Peace.

No, the Russian program is simply a protocol question, is more advanced and more detailed, that's all. And we have some provisions for cooperation which are specific only for Russia and only for some of the Partners for Cooperation. I mean, the issue of nuclear weapons, for example.

For example, control and monitoring but not proliferation of nuclear weapons. Second, the Partnership in the area of further limitations and reduction of nuclear weapons. And partnership of the issue of elimination of nuclear weapons. For example, putting back nuclear weapons to the territory--back to the territory of Russia, and elimination of the nuclear weapons there.

Of course, now in this respect, this, with those provisions only concern Russia, the United States, and some other

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partners only, not all of the partners. That's what we mean that we'll have a protocol program of cooperation with NATO.

Today we're going to present a paper about parameters of cooperation, and after the consideration by experts, we'll finally sign a paper--document--which might be a protocol of intentions or what might be an agreement or some sort of a program to decide and this will have some specific parameters characteristic only for Russia.

And it will reflect the further extent of parameters of cooperation of Russia and NATO, specific only for Russia and NATO cooperation. And it won't be correct for Russia to set forth some specific conditions of cooperation for trying to say that we won't occupy a better place, a so-called "warmer place under the sun," in the program of Partnership for Peace. This won't be correct as a civilized nation will realize such conditions.

Q: Mr. Perry: what's your first impression of Mr. Grachev's speech about Russian military doctrine and what is now on the agenda during your discussions here, mostly disagreements or the terms of agreement in future preparations?

SECRETARY PERRY: I think General Grachev gave an excellent presentation to the Defense Ministers last night and I believe that view was shared by the other NATO Defense Ministers here. This was truly an historic occasion.

We are very pleased that he announced the unconditional decision to join the Partnership for Peace and we will be discussing that further today in the meetings of the NACC.

This morning we had very fruitful discussions on issues of bilateral interest between the United States and Russia. We discussed for example, a joint U.S./Russian exercise that we're planning to conduct this Summer. We discussed various issues of interest to us and how to achieve non-proliferation of nuclear weapons, we discussed cooperation in Bosnia, and we discussed the problems with the nuclear developments in North Korea.

This is, I believe, the fifth meeting I've had with General--Minister--Grachev and we are becoming very close colleagues in working together on resolving security issues of interest to both of our countries.